

# On the verge of poverty : welfare and economic transition in Latvia

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# ON THE VERGE OF POVERTY

## Welfare and Economic Transition in Latvia

### Theses

1. Per capita welfare measures have the big advantage of relying on clear assumptions that are easily interpretable. *Chapter 2*
2. Achievements of the transition as freedom, democracy and self-determination are overshadowed by the daily struggle to make ends meet. *Chapters 3, 4, 5*
3. The fact that 75% of the Latvian population feels to have lost is a political reality that cannot be ignored even when economic growth rates seem to have recovered. *Chapter 4*
4. In economies in transition having a regular job and being paid are necessary, but not sufficient, guarantees of having enough to live on (Rose, 1995:54). *Chapter 5*
5. Not even the most well-designed social assistance system will achieve its objectives if none of the likely clients is informed about its existence. *Chapter 6*
6. The fact that picking mushrooms in the Netherlands is prohibited by law is for a Latvian incomprehensible and inconceivable if not to say completely ridiculous.
7. People that are grumpy in the morning are not by definition night owls.
8. People compare their current life with the expectations they had in the past (V. Klaus, 1999).
9. Durkheim's thesis on suicide became relevant again in the case of Latvia.
10. Before the transition people queued in order to buy something while nowadays they stand in line in order to sell something.
11. The removal of the borders in Schengen country is more than compensated by customs officials implementing the law according to the letter for the sake of their professional identity and future employment prospects.